

Appl. No. 09/812,716
Reply to Office action of December 15, 2004
Response filed on April 15, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

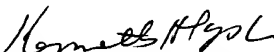
In the Office action dated December 15, 2004, Examiner rejected claim 1-2 and 10-11, and claims 19-24 as unpatentable over Aimoto (USPN 6,570, 876) in view of Kline (USPN 5,793,747). Examiner further stated that claims 3-9 and 12-18 will be allowable if rewritten in independent form including limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants appreciate the time and consideration provided by Examiner in reviewing this application. Applicants deleted claims 1-2 and 10-11, and amended claims 3 and 12 as suggested by the Examiner. Independent claim 3 as amended includes the limitations of claims 1 and 2, and independent claim 12 includes the limitations of claims 10 and 11. Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 3 and 12 as amended are now allowable. Claim 18 is amended to correct an error. Claim 19 is amended to depend upon allowable claim 12, and is now allowable. Claim 23 is amended to add limitations similar to claims 3 and 12 and is believed to be allowable. Claim 24 is amended to depend upon allowable claim 3, and is now allowable.

Thus, all the pending claims in the application as originally filed and amended by this Amendment are allowable over the prior art and the application is in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required in this application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17 during its entire pendency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1135.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: April 2, 2005
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